



State Senator **NANCY CASSIS** *E-NEWS UPDATE*

Cassis amendment adds Wixom Road reconstruction to MDOT budget

This week, I sponsored an amendment to the budget for the Department of Transportation directing the department to complete reconstruction of the I-96 and Wixom Road interchange project.

The Wixom Road corridor is ready for business expansion. Economic development and new jobs are knocking on the door. The reconstruction project will ensure safe and efficient access for workers and for moving product. If we wait much longer, other areas will become more attractive to development.

The Wixom Road and Beck Road interchanges always were considered one project with federal highway dollars backing the reconstruction. Beck was to be completed first and Wixom was to immediately follow; Gov. Granholm, however, put a stop to the Wixom Road project.

In anticipation of the reconstruction of the Wixom Road and Beck Road interchanges, local and county governments invested heavily in preparations and road improvements at substantial cost. Private right of way donations also were committed.

We must not hold back legitimate economic development that can add jobs and grow our economy at a time when Michigan's economy is dead last in the nation. Our local governments already have laid the groundwork – it's time to finish the job.

State Sen. Shirley Johnson, chair of the Appropriations Committee and of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, heartily supported the amendment because of the critical local efforts that have occurred and the adverse economic impact of further delaying the Wixom Road reconstruction.

Unless the Wixom Road reconstruction is completed, business growth and job creation will be stalled until at least 2010. Job creation must be our top priority. This is an important project that will do just that. For the health, welfare and safety of the community and the economic well-being of our state, we must complete the Wixom Road interchange.

Contact Information:

The E-News Update by Senator Nancy Cassis is designed to provide residents and organizations with a periodic update of my activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact my office.

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